

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 CG-00

COA-02 DLOS-07 SWF-02 AGR-20 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /155 W

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R 102100Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4443

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2901

PASS AGRICULTURE

EO 11652 NA

TAGS ELAB EWWT CA EPAP

SUBJ STATUS OF GREAT LAKES SHIPPING

REFS OTTAWA 2532, 2695, 2742

1. WELLAND CANAL, CLOSED SINCE AUGUST 25 WHEN BETHLEHEM STEEL SHIP STEELTON COLLIDED WITH BRIDGE AT PORT ROBINSON, REOPENED NOON SEPTEMBER 9. SOME FOUR DOZEN VESSELS WERE AWAITING PASSAGE BETWEEN LAKES ERIE AND ONTARIO AND ALL WERE EXPECTED GET THROUGH BY LATE SEPTEMBER 10. HOWEVER, MOT SOURCE HAS TOLD EMBASSY THAT CANADIAN PILOTS, IN REFLECTION OF DISPUTE WITH US OVER GREAT LAKES PILOTAGE ARRANGEMENTS, ARE REFUSING ACCEPT UBOUND VESSELS AND ARE SLOWING MOVEMENT DOWNBOUND ONES. SPECIFIC MOTIVATION OF PILOTS NOT CLEAR AS VESSELS CONCERNED, SO FAR AS OTTAWA AWARE, NOT US FLAG ONES; NOR ARE THEY ONLY CARRYING INBOUND AND OUTBOUND US CARGOES.

2. ACTIVE NEGOTIATION FINALLY UNDERWAY IN STRIKE OF DECK OFFICERS AND ENGINEERS AGAINST CANADIAN LAKE CARRIERS ASSOCIATION. THIS STRIKE HAS SHUT  
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DOWN MOST CANADIAN FLAG GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE

SHIPPING SINCE AUGUST 8. GOC CONCILIATOR HAS BEEN INVOLVED FOR LAST TEN DAYS AND YESTERDAY LABOR MINISTER MUNRO PERSONALLY JOINED TALKS. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE OPTIMISM SETTLEMENT MAY BE REACHED SHORTLY, BUT ALSO EMPHASIZE THAT AT LEAST ONE WEEK WILL BE REQUIRED AFTER SETTLEMENT BEFORE RATIFICATION AND RESUMPTION VESSEL MOVEMENT.

3. GRAIN MOVEMENTS TO ATLANTIC HIT PARTICULARLY HARD BY STRIKE AND ALSO BY WELLAND DISRUPTION. AT SAME TIME SHIPMENTS TO PACIFIC VIA VANCOUVER HAVE BEEN CUT OFF SINCE AUGUST 26 ESCALATING DISPUTE THERE INTO FULL FLEDGED STRIKE. GOC HAS ORGANIZED UNIT TRAINS TO MOVE GRAIN FROM WEST TO MONTREAL FOR LOADING ONTO OCEAN-GOING SHIPS. LATTER NORMALLY ONLY TOP OFF IN LOWER ST. LAWRENCE. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE IN SPITE OF ACCELERATED RAIL MOVEMENTS MONTREAL STOCKS ARE BEING EXHAUSTED RAPIDLY AND THIS IS MAKING SETTLEMENT OF STRIKE MORE URGENT.

4. COMMENT: IMPACT THESE DEVELOPMENTS ON ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY REVENUES WORRYING MOT OFFICIALS. AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER NORMALLY BUSY MONTHS, BUT IN 1974 THEY APPEAR LIKELY COMPOUND LOW LEVEL OF SEAWAY ACTIVITY CHARACTERISTIC OF EARLY PART OF SEASON.  
JOHNSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTES, LABOR STRIKES, LABOR OBJECTIVES, TRANSPORTATION WATERWAYS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974OTTAWA02901  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740252-0081  
**From:** OTTAWA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740960/aaaabyiw.tel  
**Line Count:** 87  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** OTTAWA 2532, 2695, 2742  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2002 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STATUS OF GREAT LAKES SHIPPING  
**TAGS:** ELAB, EWWT, EPAP, CA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005